

pressed the joy he felt in witnessing the loyalty of the masses of the people." The "Vedette" expressed itself in a similar tone.

**Mourning for Lincoln.** A few weeks later the awful news was flashed over the wires that President Lincoln had been assassinated (April 14, 1865). Utah bowed her head in sorrow, and civilians and soldiers, again uniting, mourned over the Nation's martyr. It was Saturday, the fifteenth, when the tidings came. Concerning what followed, the "Vedette" said: "The



PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

merchants, bankers, saloon keepers, and all business men of Salt Lake City closed their places of business at ten a. m. on Saturday. The flags on all the public buildings, Brigham Young's residence, stores, etc., were displayed at half mast, with crepe drooping over them. Many of the principal stores and private residences were dressed in mourning. Brigham Young's carriage was driven through town covered with crepe, and every one throughout the city, that is, of the right-minded class, manifested the deepest sorrow

at the horrible news conveyed by the telegraph.\*

**Early Mining Unprofitable.** General Connor went on maturing his plans for the development of the mining resources of the Territory. It was up-hill work, and he all but impoverished himself by his strenuous exertions. Many mines were located, considerable ore was extracted, and some smelting done in Rush Valley, but mining in these parts was not a paying industry until after the arrival of the railroad.

\*On the day of the President's burial a joint service was held in the Tabernacle. City Marshal Jesse C. Little had charge of the proceedings, and Amasa M. Lyman and Chaplain McLeod were the speakers. The opening and closing prayers were by Wilford Woodruff and Franklin D. Richards.

made their escape, he offered a reward of two hundred dollars for the apprehension of each or either of "those fugitives from justice." The governor of Missouri offered a reward of three hundred dollars for the arrest of each or either of them.

THE TIDE OF POPULAR PREJUDICE—EFFORTS TO ASSUAGE

A tide of popular prejudice arose about this time which seemingly threatened to overwhelm the church; and consequently a special conference was called for the 27th of August to appoint elders of the church to go through Illinois and the east, to counteract, if possible, this prejudice, aroused in the main, by the misrepresentations and slanderous assaults of Dr. John C. Bennett.\* In the midst of the conference, much to the joy of the saints, President Smith appeared upon the stand and addressed the conference. His presence was all the more welcome because many of the people believed he had gone to Washington, others to Europe. Naturally his appearance created great cheerfulness and enthusiasm. President

8. John C. Bennett labors hard to prove, by statements alleged to have been made to him by the Prophet, and subsequently by Rockwell, that they were jointly guilty of the attempted assassination of Boggs, but there is no weight of evidence in his presentation of the case; not is there any evidence that the "Mormon" people or the officials of the "Mormon" church approved of revenge by acts of assassination. Bennett, in his book, *The History of the Saints* (p. 282), makes a quotation from the *Nauvoo Wasp* in which he charges editorial expressions of approval of the deed, as follows:

"The *Nauvoo Wasp* of May 28, A. D. 1842, a paper edited by William Smith, one of the twelve Mormon apostles, and brother of the Prophet, declared Boggs is undoubtedly killed according to report, but who did the Noble Deed remains to be found out."

This, however, is not an editorial expression of the *Wasp*; but is found in a communication, on the editorial page, it is true, but signed by a now unknown writer, under the *nom de plume* of "Vortex." It is this now unknown writer in the *Wasp* that refers to the then supposed assassination of Boggs as a "noble deed," not the editor. The editorial comment of the *Wasp* on this communication to please our "Vortex" is as follows: "We admit the foregoing communication to please our correspondent, not that we have faith that anyone has killed Governor Boggs. The last account we have received is that he is still living and likely to live." On the same page of the *Wasp* is published Joseph Smith's denial of complicity in the then supposed assassination of Boggs, and also a denial of having made any prediction of a violent death for him. It is only justice to the Prophet's memory to say that in all the investigations had upon the subject, historically, or judicially, his denial is not confuted. (See *Noir* end of chapter).



JUDGE STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS  
Friend of the Prophet

*John C. Bennett*

Fort Douglas named for  
Stephen A Douglas